REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

These remarks are made in response to the Office Action of April 18, 2007 (hereinafter Office Action). As this response is timely filed within the three-month statutory period, no fee is believed due. Nonetheless, the Examiner is expressly authorized to charge any deficiencies or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0951.

In the Office Action, Claims 1-10 and 13-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,604,077 to Dragosh, *et al.* (hereinafter Dragosh) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,408,272 to White, *et al.* (hereinafter White). U.S. Patent No. 6,560,590 to Shwe et al. (hereinafter Shwe) was also used in the rejections.

Applicants have amended independent Claims 1, 10, 14, 23, and 24 to further emphasize certain aspects of the invention. The claim amendments are fully supported throughout the Specification. (See, e.g., Specification, p. 10, lines 5-26, and p.12, lines 14-26.) No new matter has been introduced through the claim amendments.

Applicants Invention

It may be helpful to reiterate certain aspects of Applicants' invention prior to addressing the cited references. One embodiment of the invention, as exemplified by Claim 1, is a method for processing speech audio in a network-connected client device. The method can include selecting a speech grammar for use in a speech recognition system in the network-connected client device and characterizing the selected speech grammar. For example, the selected speech grammar can be characterized according to the size of the grammar and/or feedback requirements for the selected speech grammar. Although the characterization can be performed dynamically, the characterization of the selected speech grammar can also be embedded within the selected speech grammar.

Subsequently, according to the method, it can be determined based on the characterization whether to process the speech grammar locally in the network-connected client device, or remotely in a speech server connected to the network, where a grammar having a small size and/or requiring real-time feedback will be processed locally on a network connected device. Additionally, an embedded characterization in a selected speech grammar can also include a preference for processing the selected speech grammar locally or remotely.

The Claims Define Over The Prior Art

Dragosh discloses a system and method of operating an automatic speech recognition service using a client-server architecture, in which the automatic speech recognition (ASR) and text to speech (TTS) services are performed by the ASR/TTS server and the recognized speech is returned to the client remote from the ASR/TTS server. (See, e.g., Abstract and FIG. 1.) In other words, with Dragosh speech recognition is exclusively performed remotely in a server. Accordingly, Dragosh does not disclose or suggest determining whether to process the speech grammar locally in the client or remotely in a server based upon a characterization of the selected speech grammar according, for example, to the complexity of the grammar and/or the requirement of real-time feedback.

White discloses a distributed voice user interface system in which the local device (i.e., client) performs preliminary processing of the speech input and determines whether it is able to respond to the command or request using only its own resources, and if not, the local device initiates communication with a remote system for further processing of the speech input. (See, e.g., Abstract and FIG. 4.) In contrast, with the present invention, the entire speech grammar is processed in its entirety either locally or remotely depending on the characterization of the selected speech grammar; that is, the speech grammar is not partially processed locally and also partially processed remotely if the

local processing is not adequate. With Applicants' invention, an initial determination is made before the processing begins, not after preliminary processing. Also, it is noted that in White remote processing is utilized when local processing is not adequate. White does not determine whether to process speech input locally or remotely according to a characterization of the selected speech grammar based, for example, on the complexity of the grammar and the requirement of real-time feedback.

Shwe discloses a multi-tiered system for responding to natural language queries. Shwe teaches calling only a subset of the available natural language query resolution methods when a quick response is expected and the current load of the application server is high. (See Col. 4, lines 54-59.) This technique, however, suggests nothing about determining initially whether to process the entire speech grammar locally in the client or remotely in a server according to a characterization of the selected speech grammar based, for example, on the complexity of the grammar and the requirement of real-time feedback. As already noted, with the present invention, once the determination is made the speech grammar is processed either locally or remotely in its entirety; it is not processed partially on different devices.

Accordingly, none of the cited references, individually or in combination, teaches or suggests every feature recited in the claims. The present invention, as claimed, is therefore believed to be patentable over a combination of Dragosh, White, and Shwe. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

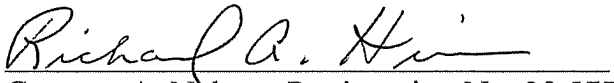
Nonetheless, to expedite prosecution, Applicants have slightly modified the language of Claims 1, 10, 14, and 23-24, to more clearly define the claimed invention. The amendments merely clarify the claim language without raising any new issues. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments presented herein.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that this application is now in full condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. Applicants request that the Examiner call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any matter within this Amendment, or if the Examiner believes a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: June 18, 2007



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